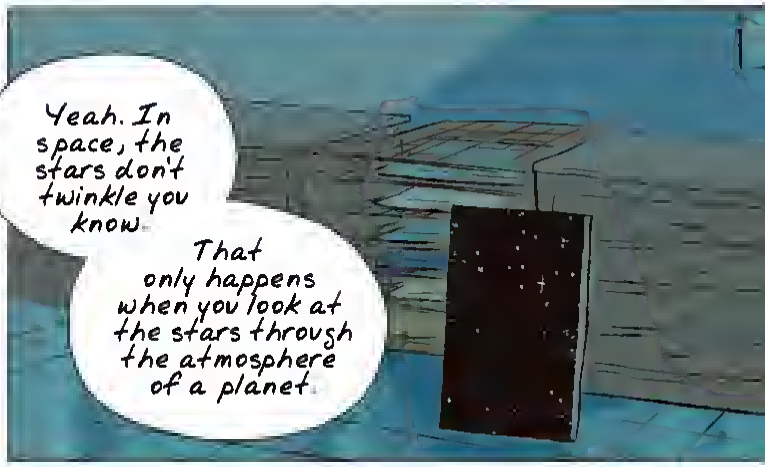
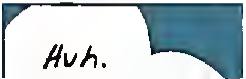
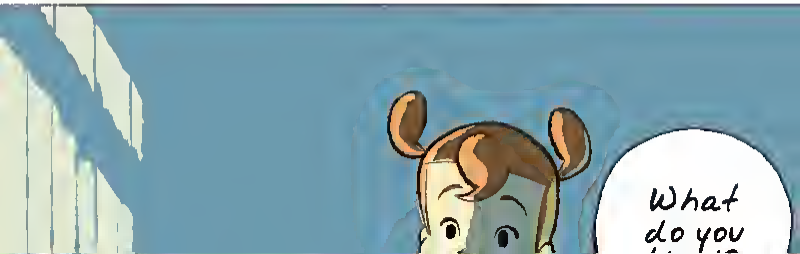
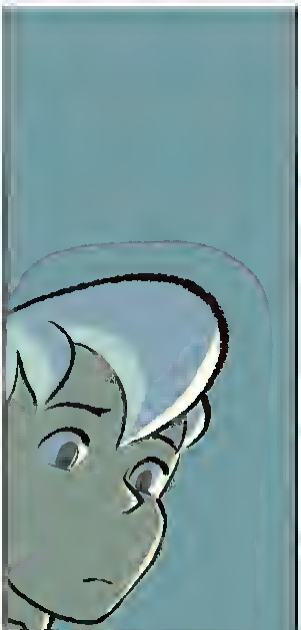

Yeah. In space, the stars don't twinkle you know.
That only happens when you look at the stars through the atmosphere of a planet.


Huh.

I didn't.
I used to think the moon only came


What
do you



Thanks for reading!
If you enjoyed this episode,
please show your appreciation
by giving me a starred rating

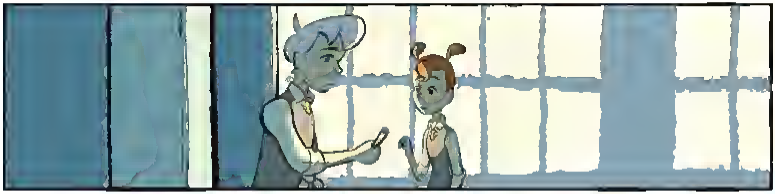
★★★★☆

Thank you so much!!

I leave you
with this amazing
Space Boy fan art,
done by instantmiso,
the creator of
Where Tangents
Meet!!

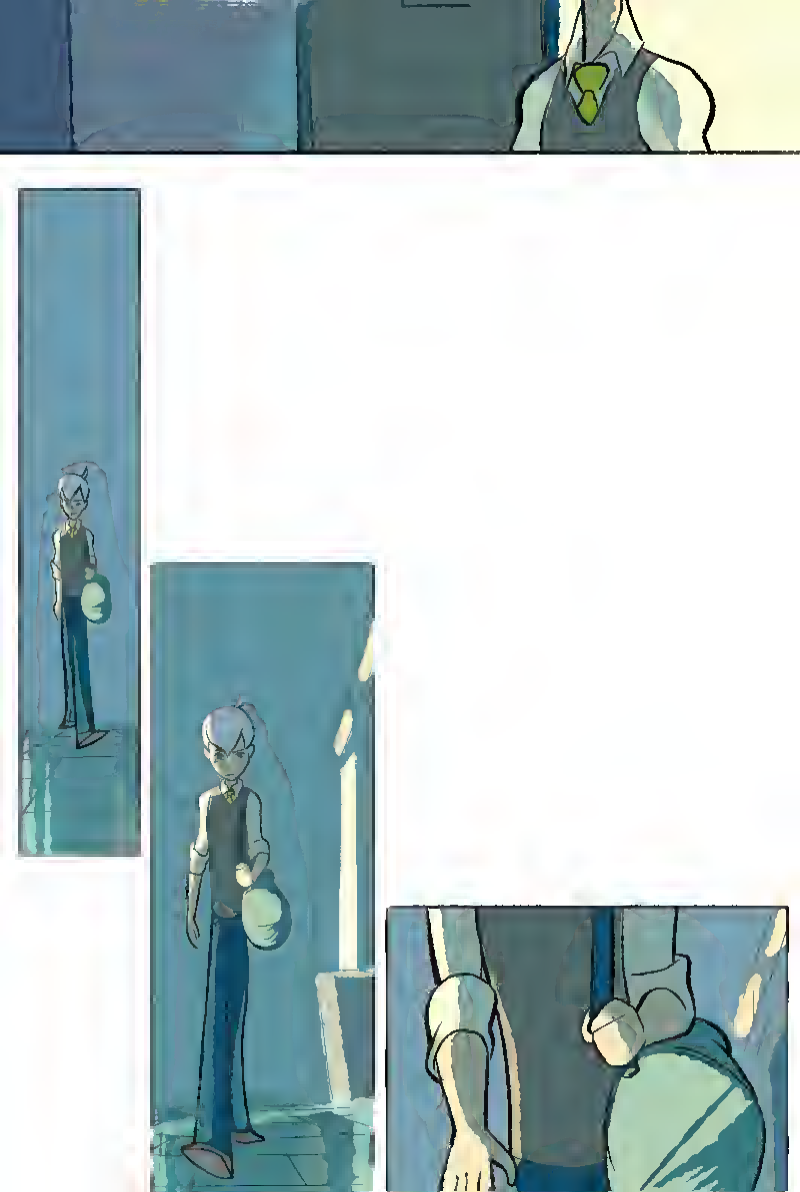
Thanks

closet.
Please.

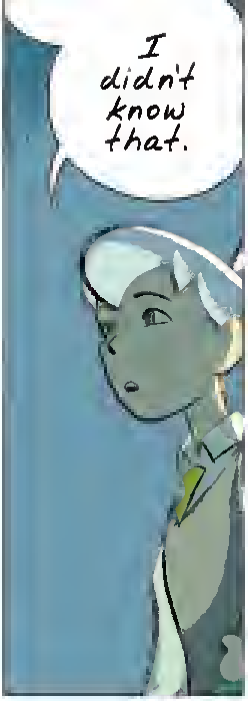


Okay, hold still now...
pop

LINE Webtoon

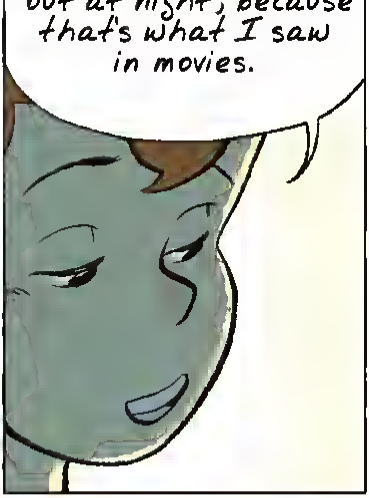


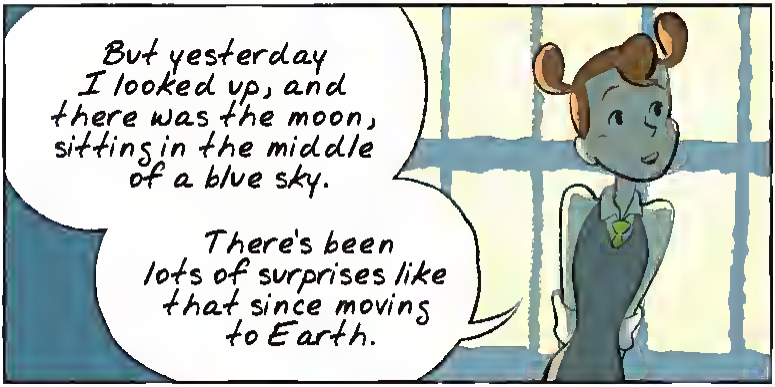
There.
Done.


I didn't know that.

Oh no.

I'm

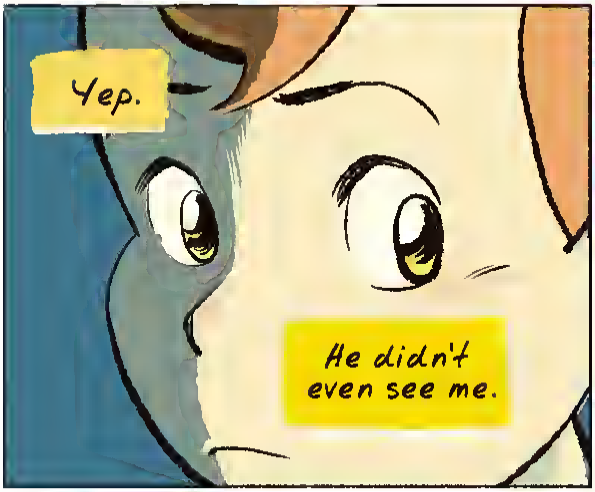

but at night, because that's what I saw in movies.


But yesterday I looked up, and there was the moon, sitting in the middle of a blue sky.
There's been lots of surprises like that since moving to Earth.

What's your point?

To tell you the truth, I wasn't actually trying to paint the stars.
I was trying to paint all The Nothing in between the

Phew.


Yep.
He didn't even see me.

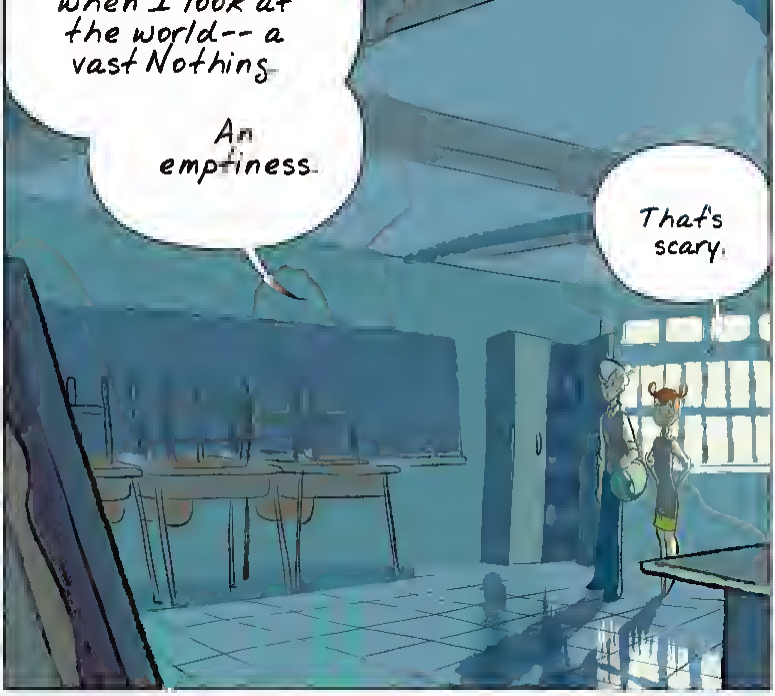
Oh no.

He spotted the paintings.

I wait for the boy to start asking questions about why I'm here and why his paintings is not on the rack, but he says nothing.

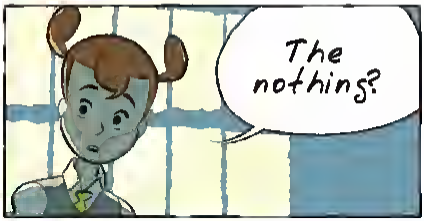
A feint flavor of sadness crosses his face, and I realize he's fallen back into his own world again.

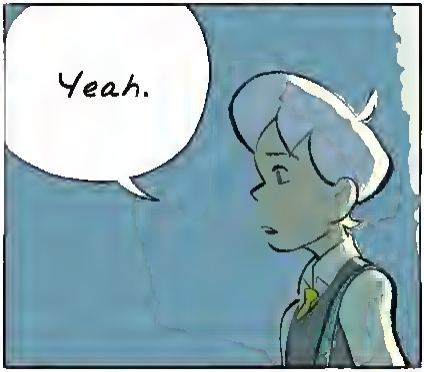
And then,
he sees me.

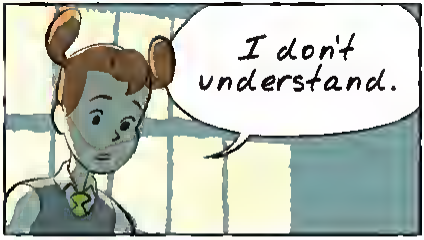

When I look at the world-- a vast Nothing.
An emptiness.
That's scary.

Most people are scared of the Nothing, so they choose to ignore it, but you can't deny it's there...

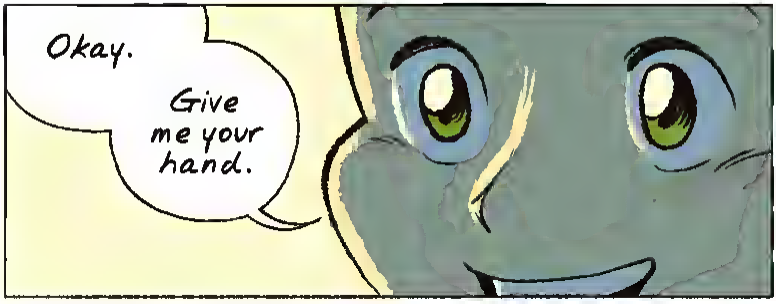
stars.


The nothing?


Yeah.


I don't understand.

That's what I see


Okay.
Give me your hand.

...
What?
And grab me a marker from the supply

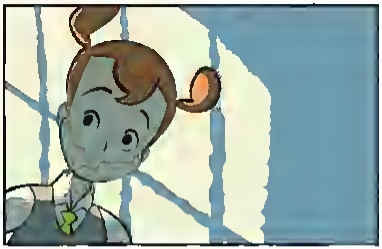
The boy stares at me.
I'm frozen, unable even to breath.
But once again I'm struck with the sense that he's not really looking at me. He's looking through me, at something far away.

think?

A strange look comes over the boy's face.

Slowly, the distance leaves his eyes...

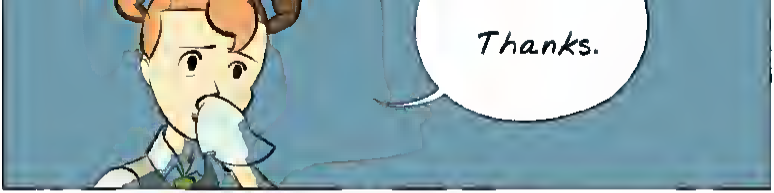
--a bed time story we made up to keep ourselves from having to contemplate the vastness of The Nothing.

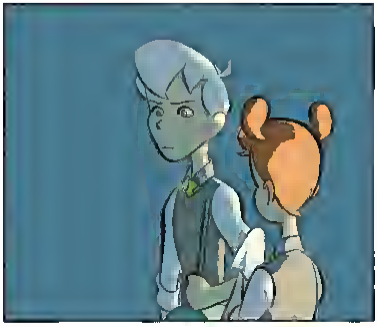


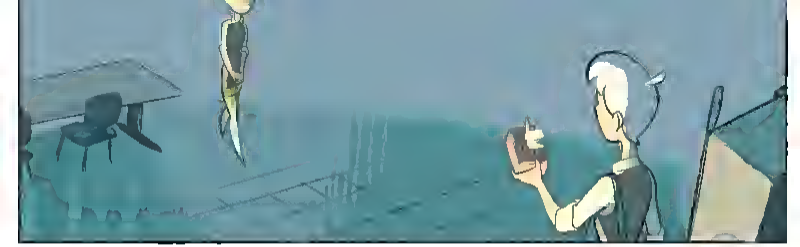
soins to--

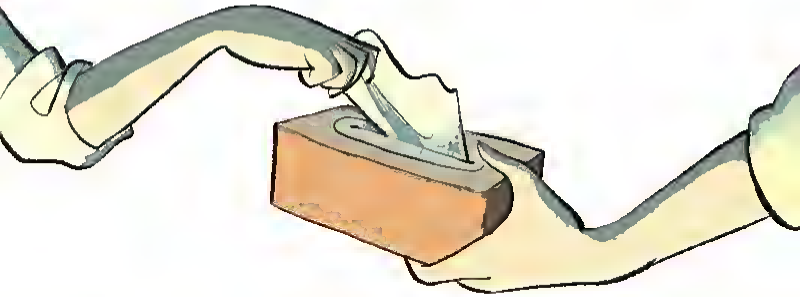
For the very first time, he sees me.

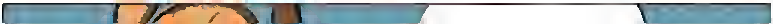
Miso!


Thanks.

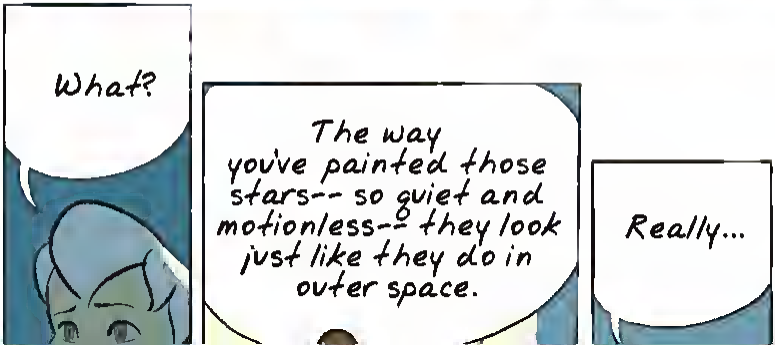


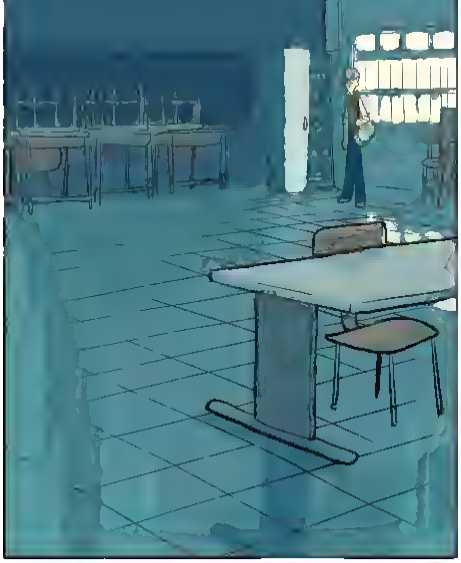






I could leave now if I wanted, and he wouldn't even notice.
But for some reason, I don't want to leave.
Have you...
Have you ever been to outer space?


What?
The way you've painted those stars-- so quiet and motionless-- they look just like they do in outer space.
Really...



Did he just talk?

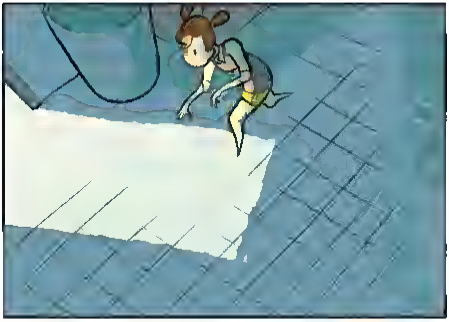
Need a tissue? There's a box here in the supply cabinet.

the supply cabinet?

Uh...

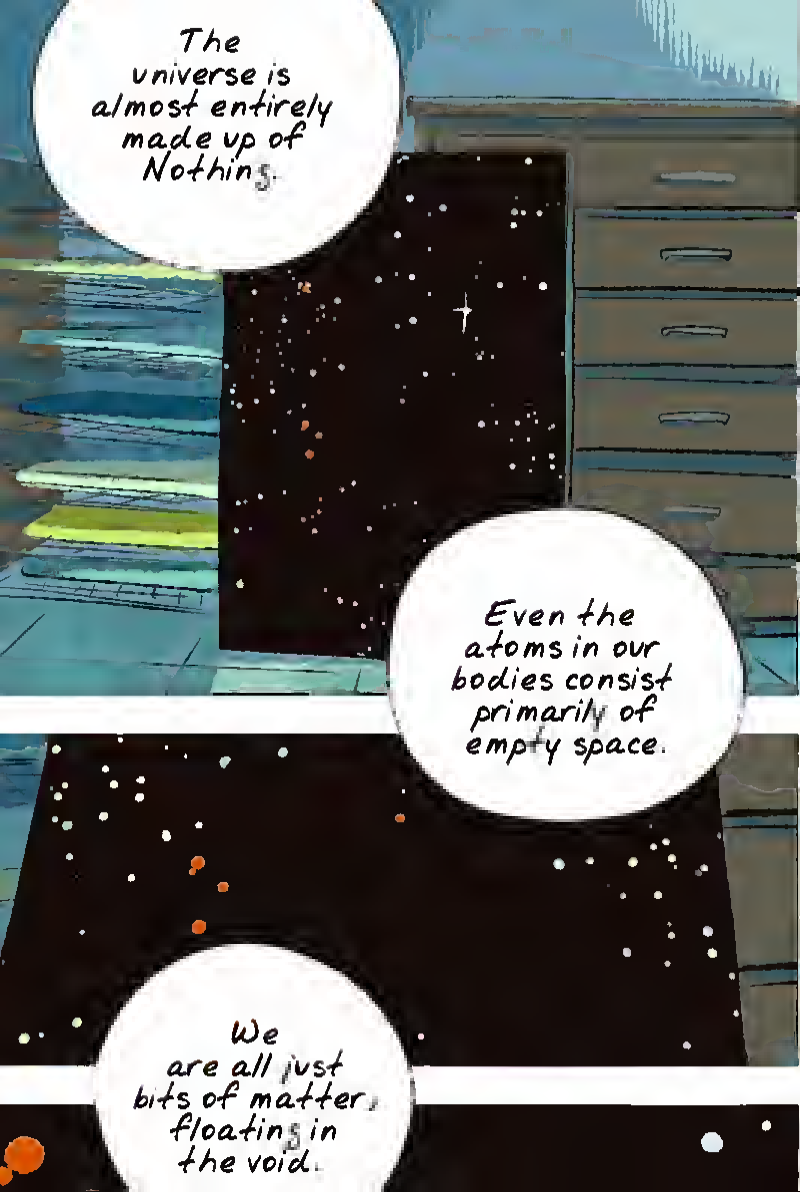
Sure.

I'm Amy.
Amy...
Nice to meet you.
My name is Oliver.

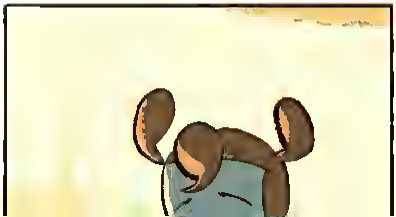


Okay.
And now he's stealing jars of paint from the supply cabinet.
Wonderful.

I think I'm just going to tiptoe out of here and pretend all this never happened.


The universe is almost entirely made up of Nothing.
Even the atoms in our bodies consist primarily of empty space.
We are all just bits of matter, floating in the void.

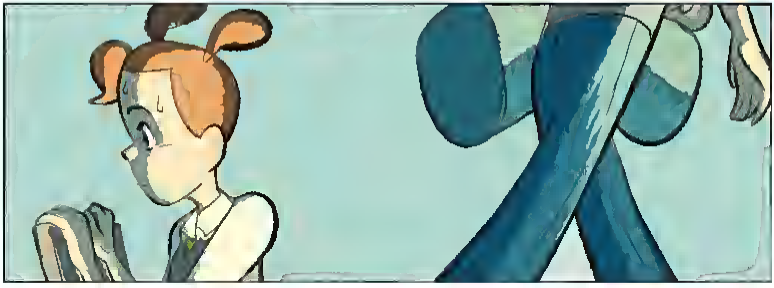
Prove it.



My point is, the world is stranger than any story I could ever make up, and more beautiful than any illusion I could ever cast.

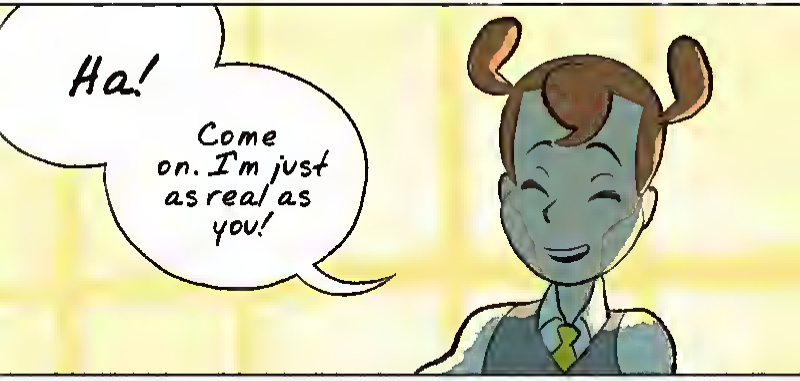
Hmmm.

Bless you.



Sometimes I wonder if the material world isn't some kind of illusion--

You say that, but how can I believe you? You might be part of the illusion.


Ha!
Come on. I'm just as real as you!

And then
the bell rings.

And it's
time for
school.

I don't think he's ever seen me.
It's like he lives in a different world, totally disconnected from everything around him.

SPACE BOY

by

Stephen McCranie

@stephenmccranie

With Coloring Assistance by
Cartoonist Jenn Myers.
See more of her work at
typodmary.com